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Possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development: past terms of reference and any relevant factors or experience of previous ad hoc panels of experts

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2009/258, the present note deals with past terms of reference and any relevant factors or experience of previous ad hoc panels of experts. It covers three distinct categories of expert bodies. The first part gives a general overview of several expert panels that are subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council. The second part provides information on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The third part offers examples of high-level panels of experts that were established by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or United Nations agencies. Finally, the note provides concluding observations with regard to the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development.

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Possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development: past terms of reference and any relevant factors or experience of previous ad hoc panels of experts

I. Introduction

1. In its decision 2009/258 of 31 July 2009, entitled "Follow-up to paragraph 56 of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development", the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretariat to provide by 15 September 2009, inter alia, a report on "the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development, including past terms of reference and any relevant factors or experience of previous ad hoc panels of experts; the panel could provide independent technical expertise and analysis, which could contribute to informing international action and political decision-making and to fostering constructive dialogue and exchanges among policymakers, academics, institutions and civil society". The present note has been prepared in response to that request.

2. The present note gives an overview of several expert bodies that were chosen owing to their relevance to the decision of the Council in terms of their substantive focus and working procedures (see annex I). Selected expert bodies include several subsidiary organs of the Council, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the high-level panels of experts that were established by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or United Nations agencies. Finally, the note provides some concluding observations that the Council may wish to take into account with regard to the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development.

II. Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council: expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity

3. There are currently two types of expert bodies serving as subsidiary organs to the Economic and Social Council: (a) expert bodies composed of governmental experts; and (b) expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity. Since the Council's decision refers to "independent technical expertise and analysis", this section is based on three examples of expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity, namely the Committee for Development Policy, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. For that reason, those bodies seem to be particularly relevant to the review of existing structures that are mandated to provide independent expert advice to the Council.

History of terms of reference

4. The terms of reference, membership, composition, terms of office, reporting procedures, frequency of meetings, level of secretariat support, documentation and resource requirements depend on legislating resolutions and working arrangements

of the committees. The original mandate for expert panels that serve as subsidiary bodies to the Economic and Social Council was established by a Council resolution and has been modified in accordance with subsequent resolutions.

5. The committees referred to in the present section were originally established as groups of experts or ad hoc groups of experts and were subsequently renamed as committees of experts. The process of renaming an ad hoc group of experts as a committee of experts may or may not lead to a change in its mandate. For example, in 2001, the Council decided that the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance should be renamed the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, without a change of its mandate (see Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/45). However, when the Council renamed the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters as the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters in 2004, the new Committee underwent certain changes in its mandate and the way it operated and reported (Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/69).

Membership, composition and term of office

6. Committee members are nominated by Governments or the Secretary-General after consultation with interested Governments. The Council either approves or, at the least, takes note of the nominations depending on the particular legislative arrangement of the committee. Members act in their personal capacity and are selected on the basis of their expertise relevant to the work of the committee and to reflect an equitable geographical representation and adequate gender distribution. However, the criteria applied to ensure their independence depend on the expert body. In the case of the Committee for Development Policy, independence is taken to mean that as soon as a member joins his or her Government service, he or she has to be replaced. In the case of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, members serve in their personal capacity, even if they are employed by their Government. Membership of the three committees ranges from 24 to 25 experts, with terms of office of three or four years. In some instances, subcommittees and working and expert groups are established to deal with specific issues of interest to a particular committee.

Reporting procedure

7. Committees generally report directly to the Council. Their reports are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. The Council also decides on the work programmes proposed by the committees and advises them each year about the theme or themes that they should consider at their annual sessions. Some committees follow a multi-year work programme. Sometimes the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of the Council propose, through the Council, issues for consideration by a committee.

Frequency of meetings

8. Most committees meet annually for a period not exceeding five working days. Committees typically elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson and rapporteur for each session from among their membership. Committees may form a bureau that helps oversee the coordination and distribution of information to its members when they

are not in session and to liaise with the secretariat concerning the programme of work. Subcommittees or expert/working groups may be formed to meet in advance of the plenary sessions and prepare specialized inputs for the committees.

Secretariat support

9. Committees are serviced by small secretariats within divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Secretariat typically comprises the Secretary of the committee at the D-1 or P-5 level and several Professionals, as well administrative support staff at the General Service level. The committee secretariat is entrusted with providing substantive and administrative servicing of meetings, as well as parliamentary documentation.

Meeting documentation

10. Documentation for committee sessions includes the agenda, the reports of previous sessions and relevant meetings, as well as other thematic inputs. Usually, the secretariat staff or committee members prepare substantive inputs. In special cases, additional papers are drawn from specialized consultants.

Entitlements

11. Travel costs for the attendance of committee members at the annual sessions are provided from the regular budget. The travel entitlements for experts serving on committees in their individual capacity is set in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2491 (XXIII), as amended by resolutions 41/176, 42/225, section VI, and 43/217, section IX, and covers the cost of travel accommodation in the class immediately below first class, regardless of the duration of the travel, daily subsistence allowance at the standard rate plus a 40 per cent supplement, and terminal expenses. No honorariums are paid to the members. Full conference services are provided for the annual sessions. No provisions have been appropriated for travel or conference services for intersessional meetings of working groups and/or subcommittees created by the committees.

III. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

History of terms of reference

12. Following a request by the United Nations General Assembly to the Executive Heads of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for "International cooperation in the field of the environment" (see General Assembly resolution 42/184), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was established in 1988 by the WMO Executive Council at its fortieth session, when it was given its initial mandate and terms of reference.[1] However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change does not operate under a single, consolidated set of terms of reference. Through resolutions of the governing bodies of its parent organizations, UNEP and WMO, the terms of reference have been updated over time. Decisions of the UNEP Governing Council and resolutions

[1] See WMO, Res.4 EC-CL. Most of the information is taken from documentation provided on the website of the Intergovernmental Panel, http://www.ipcc.ch/.

of the WMO Congress and Executive Council have placed the following requirements on the Intergovernmental Panel:

(a) Undertake and periodically update the assessments of available scientific information on climate change, the resulting environmental and socio-economic impacts, and various response options from near and long-term perspectives;

(b) Evaluate the special problems of developing countries and small island states and ensure their effective participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel;

(c) Provide scientific and socio-economic information and advice, initially for the development and negotiations of a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and, after the entry into force of the Convention, to continue to work closely with UNFCCC and to provide scientific, technical and socio-economic information and advice;

(d) Report to the governing bodies of the parent organizations and communicate the results of the assessments broadly.

13. Certain specific requests were made over time, which have been reflected in the structure and work programme of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In summary form, those requests and requirements include:

(a) Utilize innovative state-of-the-art technology and know-how;

(b) Identify ways to strengthen the scientific capability of developing countries, including with respect to research, systematic observation and detection of climate change and its impacts;

(c) Provide scientific technical assessments related to the objectives of UNFCCC (Art. 2);

(d) Develop and assess methods for national inventories of harmful anthropogenic emissions by source and removal by sinks;

(e) Make recommendations for raising public awareness and education with respect to climate change;

(f) Provide climate change relevant information to UNFCCC and other interested entities.

14. Requirements that were more temporary in nature were also entrusted to the Intergovernmental Panel, in particular during the negotiations of UNFCCC, such as the development of elements for the conclusion of a possible future convention, the pursuit of studies on incremental costs as well as on sources from which such costs might be met, and methodologies for calculating effective capacities. The respective resolutions and decisions of the governing bodies, both the more constant and the transient requests as well as specific requests received from UNFCCC and other relevant bodies, were considered by the Panel and reflected in its work programme. The Panel takes into consideration both the "Principles governing the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change", which state that "reports should be neutral with respect to policy, although they may need to deal objectively with scientific, technical and socio-economic factors relevant to the application of particular policies and available resources", and the available resources and base of knowledge in scientific technical literature.

15. The initial mandate of the Panel, as outlined by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/53, was to prepare a comprehensive review and recommendations with respect to the state of knowledge of the science of climate change; programmes and studies on the social and economic impact of climate change; and possible response strategies and elements for inclusion in a possible future international convention on climate. This mandate led to the First Assessment Report of the Panel in 1990, as well as a supplemental report prepared in 1992, which supported the establishment of UNFCCC at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The reports of the Panel were also influential at the first Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention, held in Berlin in 1995. Attendees produced the so-called Berlin Mandate, which set out the terms for a negotiation process that would produce binding commitments by industrial countries to reduce their emissions after the year 2000. The Panel's Second Assessment Report in 1996, along with additional special materials on the implications of various potential emission limitations and regional consequences, provided key input to the negotiations that led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol to UNFCCC in 1997.

Membership, composition and term office

16. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is open to Member States of WMO and the United Nations, and there are at present 194 member countries. The Panel is presided over by a Chairperson, and the chair is assisted by a secretariat and an elected Bureau, which includes vice-chairs and Working Group co-chairs. The Panel, comprised of government delegations of all member countries, meets approximately once a year at the plenary level. Those sessions are attended by hundreds of officials and experts from relevant ministries, agencies and research institutions from member countries and from participating organizations. Annex II sets out the governing structure and workflow chart of the Panel.

17. Major decisions, such as the election of the Panel's Chair, its bureau, the structure and mandate of the Working Groups and Task Forces of the Panel, as well as on procedural matters, workplan and budget are taken up by the Panel in the plenary session. The Panel decides also on the scope and outline of its reports and accepts the reports. Each delegation of a member of the Panel represented in the plenary session has one vote. Non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations may be allowed to attend plenary sessions of the Panel as observers. The Panel bureau, at present comprising 30 members, is elected by the plenary of the Panel. It consists of:

(a) The Chair of the Panel;

(b) Three Vice-Chairs, with specific responsibilities;

(c) Two Co-Chairs of the Task Force Bureau on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;

(d) Three Working Group bureaux.

18. Members of the Bureau of the Panel are to provide guidance and lead the authors' teams through the preparation of an Assessment Report. For that reason, their mandate normally corresponds to the duration of an assessment cycle (5-6 years). Members must be experts in the field of climate change, and all regions

are represented in the Bureau of the Panel. The current regional balance of the Bureau is as follows:

(a) Region I (Africa): 5 members;

(b) Region II (Asia): 5 members;

(c) Region III (South America): 4 members;

(d) Region IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean): 4 members;

(e) Region V (South-West Pacific): 3 members;

(f) Region VI (Europe): 8 members.

19. Working members of the Panel's Bureau are normally elected for the duration of the preparation of an assessment report (5-6 years), and all nominees for election to the Panel Bureau or any task force are required to have relevant scientific, technological or socio-economic expertise. Nominations are to be made by the Government of a member of the Panel. Where there is consensus support from the region for the nominees proposed by that region for Bureau positions, those nominees may be elected without ballots. If a regional consensus does not emerge, elections for those positions shall be held. If a member of the Bureau of the Panel or any task force bureau resigns or is unable to complete the assigned term, a representative of the same member of the Panel, with relevant expertise can be nominated and serve as acting member until the next session of the Panel. The acting member will then be elected in the plenary by simple majority.

20. Each of the working group bureaux consists of two working group co-chairs and six working group vice-chairs. The two co-chairs, one each from the developed and the developing world, are assisted by a technical support unit. The Panel's working groups and task forces have clearly defined mandates and workplans agreed on by the Panel. Panel working groups at the plenary level of government representatives agree on the scope of a report prepared by the respective working group, provide guidance on the selection of authors and later accept the content of the report and approve its summary for policymakers. The reports are prepared by teams of authors, but Governments are invited to provide comments during their reviews. In accordance with the current structure of the working groups of the Panel, group I assesses the scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change, group II assesses the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the vulnerability (sensitivity and adaptability) to climate change of, and the negative and positive consequences (impacts) on, ecological systems, socio-economic sectors and human health, with an emphasis on regional, sectoral and cross-sectoral issues; and group III assesses the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the mitigation of climate change.

21. The bureaux of the working groups select authors, contributors, reviewers and other experts from a list of nominations received from Governments and participating organizations. A Government nomination does not imply that the scientist's views are endorsed by that Government or that the scientist is expected to represent his or her government's view. It may mean that a Government has provided a scientist with financial support, but many scientists receive no financial support or are reimbursed only for travel expenses. Experts from developing nations who have received no financial support from their Government are supported through the trust fund of the Panel.

22. Each working group is charged with publishing: (a) an in-depth technical report; (b) a technical summary; and (c) a short summary for policymakers. In addition, the major findings and conclusions from all three reports provide the basis for a final synthesis report. Conclusions drawn by any Panel working group or task force are not considered to be official views of the Panel until they have been accepted by it in a plenary meeting.

23. Experts can also be identified directly by the Bureau owing to their special expertise, as reflected in their publications and works. The composition of coordinating lead author teams reflects a range of views, expertise and geographical representation. The lead authors have the role of coordinating the content of the chapter for which they are responsible (there are usually two coordinating lead authors per chapter, one from each of a developing and a developed country). The lead authors work in teams to produce the content of the chapter for which they have been designated. They often receive support from several contributing authors, who provide more technical information on specific subjects covered by the chapter.

24. The Panel has also a Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. The main objective of that task force is to develop and refine a methodology for the calculation and reporting and removal of national greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the working groups and task forces, the Panel may establish task groups and steering groups for a limited or longer duration to consider a specific topic or question.

Reporting procedure

25. All reports of the Panel must be endorsed by it during a working group or a plenary session. "Approval" means that the material was subjected to line-by-line discussion and agreed upon. It is the procedure used for the short summary for policymakers of the reports. "Adoption" is a process of endorsement, section by section. It is used for the synthesis report and overview chapters of methodology reports. "Acceptance" signifies that the material was not the subject of line-by-line or section-by-section discussion and agreement, but nevertheless presents a comprehensive, objective and balanced view of the subject matter.[2]

Distinctive working method of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

26. Several distinctive features set the Panel apart from similar initiatives that international organizations have undertaken in the past. The Panel's technical reports derive their credibility principally from an extensive, transparent and iterative peer review process. This is owing to the number of reviewers, the breadth of their disciplinary backgrounds and scientific perspectives, and the inclusion of independent review editors, who certify that all comments have been fairly considered and appropriately resolved by the authors. Although the terms of reference of the Panel stress the process of peer review and state that the activities of the working groups and subgroups are to be technical in nature, the structure is designed to allow the Panel to address policy concerns effectively. Governments — as the key stakeholders in these negotiations — play an essential role in the production of the reports. Government representatives propose authors and contributors, participate in the review process and help reach a consensus on the reports' major findings. The

[2] For a detailed description, see Procedures for the Preparation, Review, Acceptance, Adoption, Approval and Publication of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, available from http://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization-procedures.htm.

inclusiveness of the process ensures that Governments cannot easily criticize or dismiss a report that they themselves have helped shape and approved during political negotiations. While this decision-making process has been criticized on the grounds that scientific findings should not be subject to political negotiations, this mechanism forces policymakers to take note of the conclusions drawn in the reports of the Panel and allows the scientific community to make itself understood to policymakers.

Secretariat of the Panel

27. The work of the groups and task forces is supported by a central secretariat of the Panel and by technical support units. The secretariat and the technical support units employ 5 to 10 people each. The secretariat plans, coordinates and oversees all activities of the Panel and is supported substantively by UNEP and WMO. Its tasks include the management of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund and coordination of the Panel's publications and public information and outreach activities.

Documentation for meetings

28. The documentation prepared for Panel sessions includes assessments and syntheses as well as special reports and summaries thereof for policymakers, and methodology reports, technical papers and supporting materials.

Resource requirements

29. The Panel is funded by regular contributions from its parent organizations, WMO and UNEP, the UNFCCC and voluntary contributions by its member countries. WMO also hosts the Panel's Secretariat. WMO and UNEP each provide one staff member for the Panel secretariat. Information about contributions received and expenditures incurred is provided by the secretariat to the Panel through a document on programme and budget. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund, which is administered under the financial regulations of WMO, supports the activities of the Panel, in particular the participation of experts from developing countries in the work of the Panel, and the publication and translation of its reports. Governments provide further substantial support for the activities of the Panel, in particular through hosting the technical support units, facilitating the participation of experts from their country in Panel activities and sponsoring meetings.

IV. Expert panels commissioned by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or United Nations agencies

Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System

30. The Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System was established by the President of the General Assembly on 18 October 2008. Its task was to draft a report that reviews the workings of the global financial system, including major bodies, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and suggests steps to be taken by Member States to secure a more sustainable and just global economic order.

31. The Commission was chaired by Joseph Stiglitz, who is a Professor at Columbia University, and Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001. The 18 members of the Commission were drawn from all geographical regions and included high-level representatives from Governments, international institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector. The Commission members had proven expertise in the complex and interrelated issues raised by the workings of the international financial system, the strengths and weaknesses of existing multilateral institutions, and the particular economic challenges faced by countries from different regions of the world and at different levels of economic and social development.

32. The Commission held several formal meetings to discuss relevant issues and draft the report. Four working groups were formed focusing on: regulation; multilateral issues; macroeconomic issues and addressing the crisis; and reforming the global financial architecture. Those groups held several consultations and provided substantive inputs for the report of the Commission. At the same time, the Commission solicited comments and suggestions from a wider body of interested stakeholders, including policymakers and government officials, representatives of international agencies, academics and members of civil society.

33. The Commission was served by staff of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. The draft recommendations of the Commission were presented in a report to the interactive thematic dialogue on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, which was held by the General Assembly in New York from 25 to 27 March 2009. On 21 May 2009, the President of the General Assembly circulated an unauthorized and unedited interim draft of the report to Member States to serve as an input for the preparations for the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 30 June 2009.

Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change

34. The Secretary-General launched a high-level Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change on 17 June 2009, which will advise him on energy and climate change challenges, in particular in identifying key issues in the run-up to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009.

35. The group is representative in terms of geography, gender and expertise in areas presenting the main issues and challenges faced by negotiators. It comprises 17 high-level external individuals, mostly from the business sector, and 6 internal experts, who are part of the UN Energy group.[3] All individuals have a proven record in the debate on climate change and in providing solutions to the climate challenge through energy policy and technology. The Group considers ways to comprehensively address climate change and boost energy efficiency and clean production, with a focus on developing countries. It provides the key political issues of the interface between the energy sector and climate change and submits

[3] The inter-agency mechanism, UN Energy, was established to help ensure coherence in the United Nations system's multi-disciplinary response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In August 2007, the group elected Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as Chair and Olav Kjørven, Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Vice-Chair. Secretariat services are provided by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

recommendations to the Secretary-General to help his interactions with Heads of State and Government with regard to those issues.

36. The Group has held two meetings (in New York on 17 June 2009 and in Stockholm on 20 August 2009) under the chairmanship of Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and head of UN Energy. The Group has also consulted through tele- and videoconferencing and through a web portal prepared by UN Energy for that purpose. One more meeting has been scheduled for November, to be held before the Conference of the Parties. The last meeting will take place immediately after the Conference of the Parties in order to assess its results and to provide expert advice to the Secretary-General on follow-up and support in implementation.

37. Costs associated with the work of the Advisory Group (for example, staff salaries, travel to meetings, commissioned papers) are covered by the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team from external resources. Additional support may be provided from UN Energy, as needed. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General provides support to the functioning of the Advisory Group (meetings, information flow, management of the overall process, etc.). The Executive Office of the Secretary-General seeks the support of the secretariat of UN Energy for those activities. One senior staff member of UN Energy located in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General provides substantive and organizational support and one support staff provides logistical and administrative support to the Advisory Group.

Millennium Project

38. The Millennium Project was commissioned by the Secretary-General in October 2002 to develop a concrete global action plan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

39. The bulk of the Project's work was carried out by an independent advisory body headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs. The body coordinated the work of 10 thematic task forces, which comprised a total of more than 250 experts from around the world, including researchers and scientists, policymakers, representatives of NGOs, United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the private sector. Task force members volunteered their time, and each task force was chaired by two to five coordinators who led the research effort. The task forces received support from a small secretariat team based at the headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York.

40. In 2005, the independent advisory body presented its final recommendations to the Secretary-General in a synthesis volume, *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*. After the presentation of the Millennium Project's final reports, the secretariat team worked in an advisory capacity through to the end of 2006 to support the implementation of the Project's recommendations, with special focus on supporting developing countries in the preparation of national development strategies aligned with achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As from 1 January 2007, the advisory work formerly carried out by the Millennium Project secretariat team is being continued by a Millennium Development Goal support team integrated under UNDP.

Zedillo panel

41. On 15 December 2000, the Secretary-General appointed Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico, Chairman of the High-level Panel on Financing for Development. The Panel was established to advise the Secretary-General on strategies for the mobilization of resources required to accelerate equitable and sustainable growth in developing countries as well as economies in transition, and to fulfil the poverty and development commitments enshrined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2).

42. The Panel included 11 former and current high-level representatives from Governments, international institutions, civil society and the private sector representing all geographical regions and serving in their personal capacity. The members convened for the first time on 14 February 2001. The Panel held several consultations, including meetings with members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development. On 25 June 2001, the Panel submitted its final report through the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly (see A/55/1000). The report urged: improved governance and economic management; more resources for the poor; the creation of an international tax organization; the consideration of an international tax on carbon emissions and the creation of an Economic Security Council; issuance and allocation of new special drawing rights by IMF; a consolidated global environmental organization; common-pool aid mechanisms and a more democratic World Trade Organization. The Secretary-General encouraged Member States to carefully consider the recommendations of the Panel in the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development and at the Conference itself, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002.

United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors

43. The United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors was established by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)/UNDP in 2006 for a term of two years in response to one of the main recommendations of the Advisers Group, that was established to take forward work that had been started during the 2005 International Year of Microcredit. That group had suggested that the United Nations appoint "a group of experts, for a limited period not exceeding two years, to see the work we have begun through to completion". The main role of the Advisers Group is to advise the United Nations system and Member States on global issues relating to inclusive finance.

44. The Group comprises 25 individuals representing Governments, central banks, regulatory agencies, microfinance institutions and other financial services providers, private sector financial institutions, civil society, development agencies and donors, as well as academia from all over the world. The Advisers were selected on the basis of their expertise regarding financial services and inclusive finance, their commitment to building inclusive financial sectors and their ability to raise public awareness and to mobilize wide support in the global effort to increase access to financial services. They have met roughly three times a year. The Group is served by a small secretariat within UNCDF funded through extrabudgetary contributions.

45. The Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors presented the Secretary-General and Member States with concrete recommendations on how to expand financial services to the world's 2.1 billion "unbanked" at the second International

Conference on Financing for Development, held in Doha, from 29 November to 2 December 2008.

V. Concluding observations

46. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should consider, as appropriate, the establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development. The panel could provide independent technical expertise and analysis, which would contribute to informing international action and political decision-making and to fostering constructive dialogue and exchanges among policymakers, academics, institutions and civil society.

47. The present note reviews the terms of reference and other relevant factors or experience of previous and existing models that provide the requested points of reference. In general, none of the reviewed bodies has the mandate, capacity or modalities commensurate with the objective of providing independent technical expertise and analysis on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development, which would contribute to informing international action and political decision-making and to fostering constructive dialogue and exchanges among policymakers, academics, institutions and civil society. Whereas the terms of reference of the Committee for Development Policy allow it to consider any development policy issue, as assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council, the Committee's overall capacity may be insufficient to implement the aforementioned comprehensive mandate. Another relevant body, the Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System, has finalized its report and has thus completed its mandate.

48. It is incumbent on Member States to pass judgement and decide as to which model (or any combination thereof) would best serve their needs and objectives. Consultations within the United Nations system have highlighted the following principles, which may serve as guidelines for the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts:

(a) An ad hoc panel of experts should provide independent technical expertise and analysis on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development, on which Governments, United Nations agencies and other international institutions could draw in formulating their policies in the subject area;

(b) Duplication of efforts and overlap with terms of reference of existing bodies should be avoided. International organizations should foster effective institutional cooperation. Efforts should be guided by pragmatism, specialization and division of labour;

(c) Given the rather broad mandate of the proposed panel, a format that allows for input from a variety of working groups that mobilize expert contributions from a wide range of stakeholders and backgrounds might be most beneficial;

(d) Effectiveness of a new body in contributing to the purpose of informing international action and political decision-making will also depend on modalities for the follow-up to its output, especially those that would provide for direct consideration of its policy conclusions and recommendations by intergovernmental bodies within and outside the United Nations system. The reporting mechanisms would have implications for the organizational structure and composition of the expert panel.

Annex I

General overview of cited expert bodies of the Economic and Social Council

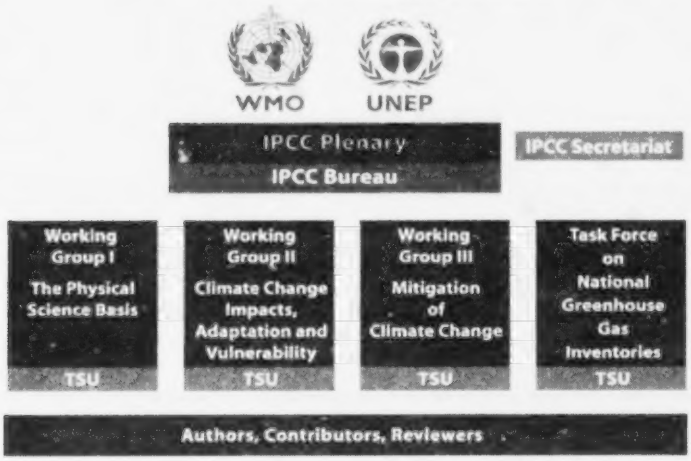
	Committee for Development Policy	*Committee of Experts in Public Administration*	*Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters*
Historical background	In its resolution 1035 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to consider establishing a group of expert specialists that would work as a consultative body on the problems of economic planning and projections within the United Nations. In its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, the Council decided that the Committee for Development Planning should be renamed the Committee for Development Policy.	In its resolution 1199 (XLII) of 24 May 1967, the Economic and Social Council decided that the United Nations programme in public administration should be reviewed by a meeting of experts. By its resolution 2001/45 of 20 December 2001, the Council decided that the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance should be renamed Committee of Experts in Public Administration without change in its mandate.	In its resolution 1273 (XLIII) of 4 August 1967, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to set up a group of experts to explore ways and means for facilitating the conclusion of tax treaties between developed and developing countries. By its resolution 2004/69 of 11 November, the Council decided that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be renamed the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.
Legislative mandate	Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46	Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/45	Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/69
Terms of reference	The functions of the Committee are as follows: (a) undertake the triennial review of the status of the least developed countries; (b) consider issues identified by the Council; and (c) submit a report to the Council at its substantive session, including on the outcome of its deliberations on the theme or themes identified by the Council, and proposals concerning its work programme for the following year. The General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of the Council can also propose, through the Council, issues for consideration by the Committee.	The work of the Committee focuses on recommendations aimed at: (a) strengthening the human capital in the public sector; (b) facilitating access to information and best practices; (c) promoting good governance and accountability in public administration, at the national and international levels; and (d) strengthening public administration institutions in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. By resolution 2006/47 of 28 July 2006, the Council approved the Committee's decision to work according to a multi-year programme.	The Committee: (a) keeps under review and updates as necessary the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries and the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries; (b) provides a framework for dialogue with a view to enhancing and promoting international tax cooperation among national tax authorities; (c) considers how new and emerging issues could affect international cooperation in tax matters; and (d) develops assessments, commentaries and appropriate recommendations.

	Committee for Development Policy	*Committee of Experts in Public Administration*	*Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters*
Number of members	24 independent experts nominated by the Secretary-General after consultation with interested Governments and appointed by the Council	24 experts serving in their personal capacity, nominated by the Secretary-General in consultation with Member States and appointed by the Council	25 members nominated by Governments but acting in their expert capacity, appointed by the Secretary-General and taken note of by the Council
Term of office	3 years	4 years	4 years
Reporting procedure	Reports to the Council and their reports are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*		
Frequency of meetings	Annually for a period of five working days		
Venue of sessions	New York	New York	Geneva

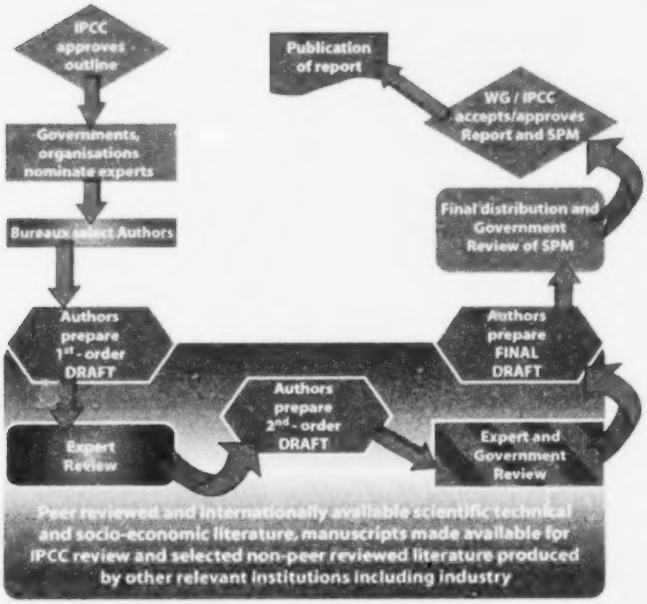
Annex II

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change governing structure and workflow chart

Governing structure



Workflow chart


IPCC approves outline
Governments, organisations nominate experts
Bureaux select Authors
Authors prepare 1st - order DRAFT
Expert Review
Authors prepare 2nd - order DRAFT
Expert and Government Review
Authors prepare FINAL DRAFT
Final distribution and Government Review of SPM
WG / IPCC accepts/approves Report and SPM
Publication of report
Peer reviewed and internationally available scientific technical and socio-economic literature, manuscripts made available for IPCC review and selected non-peer reviewed literature produced by other relevant institutions including industry

Abbreviations: IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; TSU, technical support unit; WG, working group; SPM, summaries for policymakers.

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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The promotion and enhancement of a coordinated response of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies in the follow-up to and implementation of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in pursuance of Economic and Social Council decision 2009/258 on the follow-up to paragraph 56 of the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. It focuses on initiatives that represent a United Nations system-wide coordinated response to the crisis. Such response by the United Nations system, which began towards the end of 2008, is led by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

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I. Mandate

1. In its resolution 63/303, the General Assembly endorsed the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, annexed to the resolution. In paragraph 56 of the outcome document, the Economic and Social Council was requested to consider a number of follow-up measures that would strengthen the response by the United Nations to the economic and financial crisis.

2. At its substantive session of 2009, the Council adopted decision 2009/258 on the follow-up to paragraph 56 of the above-mentioned outcome document, in which it requested the Secretariat to provide a detailed report on the promotion and enhancement of a coordinated response of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies in the follow-up to and implementation of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, in order to advance consistency and coherence in support of consensus-building around policies related to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. The present report is submitted in pursuance of that request.

3. In the same decision, the Council requested the Secretariat to provide reports on the implementation of the agreements between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions and on the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development. The present document should be read in conjunction with these two other reports.

4. The enhancement of a coordinated response by the United Nations system is a process that requires the elaboration of a shared analytical framework on the crisis and its impact on development, around which all actors can develop common approaches. Mechanisms have also been set up to organize this system-wide response and provide for a structured follow-up. Finally, the operationalization of the United Nations response requires guidance for the work of the system at the country level. Many of the United Nations entities have taken significant steps at the analytical and operational levels to respond to the crisis. The present report focuses on those initiatives which represent a United Nations coordinated response.

II. Process of elaborating a United Nations common response to the world economic and financial crisis

5. The global financial and economic crisis, the most severe synchronized economic downturn that the global community has experienced in the past seventy years, has been at the top of the agenda of the United Nations system over the past year. In June, in the above-mentioned outcome document, world leaders called on United Nations system agencies to respond by action or with technical expertise to a

number of strategic economic challenges that will remain high on the international agenda as it relates to financing for development and macroeconomic issues.[1]

6. A process of elaborating a United Nations common response, which began towards the end of 2008, has led to shared policy analysis on the crisis. These mechanisms have enabled a rapid response by the United Nations system in the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) has been the driving force in this process.

7. As early as October 2008, CEB initiated a review of the implications of the financial markets crisis, when it was clear that the crisis had begun to take on serious global dimensions and to impact real economies and livelihoods. In its approach, CEB recognized that the major challenges facing the international community as a result of the crisis included: (a) a significant danger that progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals would be reversed; (b) further millions of people trapped in poverty in developing countries; (c) a fall in global trade in 2009 for the first time in 27 years; (d) worldwide increases in unemployment in 2009 and the expectation that, even with a return to positive growth in 2010, unemployment and underemployment would still remain high for several years to come; (e) a fall in investment growth in the developing world in 2009; (f) an expectation that commodity prices, while having fallen from their historic levels, would remain higher than during the 1990s for the next 20 years; (g) a decline in global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2009; and (h) expectations that human development impacts would be severe as individuals and households were pushed into poverty and malnutrition, disproportionately affecting the already vulnerable, while government revenues would fall precisely when safety nets needed to be made more effective.

8. The Board also recognized that while the crisis impacted all countries, it was those who were least responsible — the poor in developing countries — who would feel its most serious repercussions. Against this background, it became imperative for the Board to formulate a united strategy for action that would attempt to prevent the financial crisis from becoming a human crisis. The CEB response to the challenges facing the international community is described below.

9. At its session held on 30 September and 1 October 2008 in Rome, the CEB High Level Committee on Programmes agreed that the work of the system should focus on how the crisis impacted the lives of people, as well as on the threat of social dislocation that could lead to political unrest. At its subsequent session (Geneva, 26-27 February 2009), the Committee reviewed proposals on the global financial crisis and its impact on the work of the United Nations system by its Chairman, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), drafted on the basis of written contributions from Committee members. The

[1] This includes, inter alia, a commitment to reforming and strengthening the international financial and economic system and architecture, as appropriate, to adapt to current challenges; the need to expand the perimeter of national and international financial regulation and supervision; the timely implementation of existing aid commitments and improvements in aid effectiveness; the need to further strengthen domestic tax systems and international cooperation in tax matters, and the need to resist unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrant workers and the imposition of unreasonable restrictions on labour migration, while complying with the relevant national legislation and applicable international instruments.

Committee discussed how the United Nations system could organize itself and work together, with a view to supporting the capacity of Governments and other stakeholders to deal with the crisis.

10. The Committee noted that the crisis had moved from the financial sector to the real economy, possibly eventually leading to a social recession. The United Nations system had long pointed out that globalization had not always been fair and inclusive. Prevailing policies had overvalued the role of markets, undervalued the role of Governments and devalued social, environmental and other factors. For a sustainable solution to the crisis, it was necessary to maintain a focus on people as well on the humanitarian and social aspects.

11. The Committee's considerations grouped several dimensions of the crisis and their impact in key policy areas, highlighting the connections within and across them. It also recognized the need to identify the gaps that had to be addressed. While none of the 28 organizations of the United Nations system that make up CEB have the mandate for, or is equipped to, deal with the crisis in all its facets on its own, the multidimensional nature of the crisis provides an important opportunity to harness the potential for synergies across the United Nations system and the organizations that make up CEB. The Committee articulated nine joint initiatives for action at the global, regional and country levels and proposed an action framework for CEB as a coherent United Nations system response. Lead and cooperating agencies were identified to take the work of developing joint United Nations system initiatives for each of the priority areas identified forward, based on a sustainable development approach.

12. At the CEB spring session retreat held in Paris on 4 April 2009, members undertook a detailed discussion on the dimensions of the crisis and possible responses by the United Nations system. In the communiqué issued following the session (see annex to the present report), the Board emphasized that the social effects of the crisis were already disturbing and could worsen. The Board considered it imperative that the global financial and economic crisis should be tackled head-on and be turned into an opportunity for a sustainable future. The multilateral system, which had an important role to play in articulating and delivering a global and coherent response to the crisis and in translating it into action at the country level, should deploy all of its resources and capacities in a rapid and effective response, while upholding the principles, values and goals to which the international community was committed. Responding to the crisis required a coherent and comprehensive strategy which rallied the knowledge, experience, strengths and capacities of the entire system and enhanced the interaction and cooperation that would allow the multilateral system to make a bold, comprehensive and coherent response to the crisis in its multiple dimensions: globally, regionally and nationally.

13. In the light of the above, and cognizant of the various mandates and responsibilities of the organizations of the United Nations system, CEB endorsed nine joint initiatives to assist countries and the global community to confront the crisis, accelerate recovery, and build a fair and inclusive system of globalization based on sustainable economic, social and environmental development for all, while facing the future in a spirit of conviction of the need for transformational change.

14. A CEB issue paper,[2] describing the nine initiatives, was circulated to all Permanent Missions in New York on 18 June 2009, to assist Member States with their preparations for the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held from 24 to 26 June 2009. The paper had previously been distributed to members of the Economic and Social Council at a panel discussion on the global financial crisis and its impact on development, held in the Council on 22 April 2009 with participants from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the World Food Programme (WFP) and ILO.

15. In addition, a note building on the issue paper was presented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to the Group of Eight Development Ministers' meeting held in Rome in June 2009. The note, entitled "Policy coordination and coherence: strengthening effective crisis responsiveness for sustainable human development" also includes analysis on the implications for international cooperation for development and on mechanisms for global coordination.

Work of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs in support of the United Nations system

16. Another important element in the elaboration of a coordinated response by the United Nations system was the preparation by the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs of a strategy paper to support the Secretary-General's preparation for and participation in the London Summit of the Leaders of the Group of Twenty, on 2 April 2009. This strategy paper later provided the basis for the report of the Secretary-General for the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development held in June 2009 (A/CONF. 214/4). The report contains analytical sections on the origins and causes of the present crisis, the transmission mechanisms and the impact of the crisis on development. It also reviews the global responses to the crisis, by the United Nations system and other international actors, and stresses the need for systemic reform, with specific recommendations.

17. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, as the coordinating body for economic and social issues in the United Nations Secretariat, has since then continued to promote a coherent and coordinated response to the crisis by its member entities and partners.[3] The underlying strength of the Executive Committee's contribution to the coherent and coordinated response of the United Nations to the global financial and economic crisis derives from its ongoing cooperation on macroeconomic analysis of the global economic situation and outlook, including in the preparation of the annual joint publication *World Economic Situation and Prospects* and its mid-year update, drawing in particular on the

[2] "The global financial crisis and its impact on the work of the United Nations system", available from http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/docs/CEB_Paper_final_web.pdf.

[3] The Executive Committee membership comprises the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, OHCHR, UNDP, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and also includes the United Nations University and the research/training institutes INSTRAW, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and UNITAR.

specific areas of expertise in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

18. In addition, there is a coordinated initiative to provide vulnerable Member States with policy support to complement their national development strategies. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has already developed country-wide macro models that can be used to assess possible impacts of the financial and economic crisis and suggest policy alternatives.

III. Establishment of nine joint crisis initiatives of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

A. Overview

19. Taken together, the joint crisis initiatives established by CEB serve as a strategic framework for facilitating the United Nations system's operational response in support of development strategies addressing vulnerabilities caused or exacerbated by the global financial and economic crisis. They constitute an organizing framework for a coordinated system-wide response in relation to the outcome document of the Conference of the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. The initiatives are built upon a commitment by the United Nations system's leaders to deliver as one in assisting countries and the global community to confront the crisis, accelerate recovery and build a fair and inclusive globalization allowing for sustainable economic, social and environmental development for all, while facing the future in a spirit of conviction of the need for transformational change.

20. Each of these nine initiatives is led by one or more CEB member organizations with the relevant competence, with the voluntary participation of others who are contributing from their various perspectives (see table). The initiatives clearly highlight that unless urgent action is taken, the crisis will have devastating effects for the most vulnerable people, with growing social insecurity and displacement. They have at their centre the commitments to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals are met, and that a path to recovery also builds upon measures to safeguard the planet's climate. They address the linkages between policy prescriptions at the global level and implementation based on country needs and priorities. Specific focus will be placed in each area on concrete crisis-related activities. It is foreseen that as the initiative evolves it will increasingly focus on those initiatives that are well articulated and deliverable. A brief description of the content of each initiative appears below.

Joint crisis initiatives

Initiative	*Lead agencies*	*Cooperating agencies*
1. Additional financing for the most vulnerable	UNDP and World Bank	All relevant agencies with large field presence in vulnerable countries
2. Food security	FAO, IFAD, United Nations and WFP	All relevant agencies with large field presence in vulnerable countries
3. Trade	UNCTAD and WTO	World Bank, IMF, International Trade Centre, UNDP, UNIDO, United Nations regional commissions and UNITAR
4. Green Economy Initiative	UNEP	FAO, ILO, IMO, United Nations regional commissions, UNCTAD, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO, World Bank, WTO, CBD and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
5. Global Jobs Pact	ILO	FAO, IMF, IMO, ITU, United Nations regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WIPO and World Bank
6. Social protection floor	ILO and WHO	FAO, IMF, OHCHR, United Nations regional commissions, UNAIDS, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNRWA, WFP, WMO and World Bank

Initiative	*Lead agencies*	*Cooperating agencies*
7. Humanitarian, security and social stability	WFP	IAEA, ILO, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNRWA, WHO, WMO and UNFPA
8. Technology and innovation	ITU, UNIDO and WIPO	ECLAC, UNCTAD and UNESCO
9. Monitoring and analysis	Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IMF	All agencies

Abbreviations: CBD, Convention on Biological Diversity; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; IAEA, International Atomic Energy Agency; IFAD, International Fund for Agricultural Development; ILO, International Labour Organization; IMO, International Maritime Organization; ITU, International Telecommunication Union; OHCHR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; UNAIDS, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNIDO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; UPU, Universal Postal Union; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UNWTO, United Nations World Tourism Organization; WFP, World Food Programme; WHO, World Health Organization; WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization; WMO, World Meteorological Organization; WTO, World Trade Organization.

B. Joint United Nations system initiatives

1. Additional financing for the most vulnerable

21. To support the implementation of an ambitious and effective framework of action as proposed by CEB, the United Nations system must bring together its funding and operational capacities in a coherent and concrete implementation approach. This approach should be based on commitment by the United Nations country teams and the World Bank to implement a comprehensive country-level crisis response to respond to the challenge of the crisis in the most vulnerable countries and populations. Tailoring solutions to the country's needs is key, given that the reality of the crisis is on the ground and differs according to the country situation. The process must be country-driven and country-owned. The crisis response mechanism should also identify: (a) overall budgetary needs and prepare a budgetary framework; (b) key organizations that lead in these areas; (c) existing sources of income and items to be covered by funded organizational programmes; (d) new sources of funding such as the World Bank Vulnerability Fund Facility and funding to address food security issues; and (e) remaining financial gaps and the interest of countries to establish country-level multi-donor trust funds. The crisis

response mechanism should further analyse the use of existing sources of funding. The mechanism should also prepare a resource-mobilization strategy and review over time the possibility of a mechanism to provide additional funding to country-level programmes centrally. In addition, vulnerable countries should be appropriately supported with technical assistance to strengthen national institutions and capacities to implement policies. A major requirement is to enhance capacities at the country level for formulation and implementation of the comprehensive country-level crisis response. The capacity-development effort should be at the national as well as local levels, within Governments as well as civil society.

2. Food security

22. The Food Security Initiative builds on the work of the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, established by CEB in April 2008, and, specifically upon the Comprehensive Framework for Action. The work of the Task Force has been retuned to take account of the aspects of the crisis that directly impinged on food security. It articulates a series of outcomes required to address the global food crisis and introduce greater food and nutrition security globally, within the broad framework of "the right to food". The rationale for this initiative is clear — a billion people in the world are hungry, unable to acquire the quantity and quality of food they require. As a result, every six seconds, a child dies of malnutrition. Food prices in developing countries remain volatile and the number of hungry is increasing as their purchasing power is further threatened by the global financial situation. The vulnerability of households, Governments and the international system to food and nutrition in security is heightened and broad action is urgent, in support of building a governmental response and adaptation in this field. The seven action points under this initiative reflect the ongoing work of the Task Force and its members as well as the provisions of the Comprehensive Framework for Action and include: (a) food assistance, including safety nets; (b) nutrition programmes for children, mothers and vulnerable populations; (c) social protection systems for vulnerable populations; (d) smallholder farmer food productivity, with a primary focus on women farmers; (e) agricultural sector development, infrastructure and trade and tax policies; (f) information and monitoring systems; and (g) advocacy for sufficient, sustained and predictable funding and sustained investments.

3. Trade

23. The volume of world trade is projected to contract sharply in 2009 as a result of a collapse in global demand and of shortages of trade finance, thus creating constraints to export growth in many developing countries. This already serious situation risks being compounded by an increase in protectionist measures. The effects of the banking and financial crisis on international trade have, furthermore, led to the tightening of liquidity. The sharp deterioration of global economic prospects has further triggered a re-assessment of credit risk, entailing a sharp increase in the cost of credit, insurance and guarantees for trade operations, in particular for developing countries and the least developed countries. With the crisis constraining the budgets of donors, there is also a risk that commitments in the area of Aid for Trade will not be honoured. Responding to these developments, the Trade Initiative will in the short term monitor trade and investment developments to counter protectionism; regularly convene relevant stakeholders and prepare periodic

reports on the situation of trade finance markets to foster transparency and best practices and ensure delivery of commitments; convene World Trade Organization members to advance the conclusion of the Doha Development Round, which would contribute to reviving economic growth around the world; and advocate and make the case for maintaining Aid for Trade.

4. Green Economy Initiative

24. The Green Economy Initiative responds to the development challenges and imbalances in growth strategies that underlie the current crisis by motivating policymakers in all countries to give green investments sufficient space in their counter-cyclical policies and thus reduce the threat of further food, water, energy, ecosystem and climate crises, which have disproportionate impacts on the poor. The Initiative aims to demonstrate that investing in green sectors — such as energy efficient technologies, renewable energy, public transport, sustainable agriculture, environmentally friendly tourism, and sustainable management of natural resources including ecosystems and biodiversity — has a better chance to bring about recovery and sustainable growth, increase competitiveness, save and create jobs, improve the quality of jobs, and reduce poverty, while tackling acute environmental problems. It also aims to identify the policy and institutional framework that is needed to support rather than undermine such investments and the greening of economic growth in all countries, taking into account national and regional conditions, special characteristics, capacities and needs.

5. Global Jobs Pact

25. The Global Jobs Pact Initiative aims at focusing the attention of decision makers on employment measures and decent work as the foundation for long-term recovery. The Initiative highlights that the multiplier effects of investments in employment-intensive areas are higher than those of alternate measures such as tax cuts. The key components of a Global Jobs Pact, namely employment promotion and social protection, would also help to reinforce global demand. The Global Jobs Pact includes a range of crisis-response measures that countries can adapt to their specific needs and situation. It is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but a portfolio of options based on successful examples, also designed to inform and support action at the multilateral level. It calls on Governments and organizations representing workers and employers to work together to collectively tackle the global jobs crisis through policies in line with the ILO Decent Work Agenda. The Pact urges Governments to consider options such as public infrastructure investment, special employment programmes, broadening of social protection and minimum wages. Particularly in developing countries, such measures can reduce poverty, increase demand and contribute to economic stability. Donor countries and multilateral agencies are called on to consider providing funding, including existing crisis resources for the implementation of the Pact's recommendations and policy options.

6. Social protection floor

26. The global economic and financial crisis threatens to roll back decades of investment in health and human development. In the long term, it could lead to significant challenges to social stability, peace and security in various parts of the world. Social protection coverage is particularly low in many developing countries. Support is needed to protect those fundamental elements of society — education,

nutrition, health, social services, protection against natural disasters, the sciences, culture and communication — that make human development possible but which are often the first to be hit in a recession. The Social Protection Floor Initiative is based on the premise that, once undone, progress on development goals cannot easily be recovered without considerable reinvestment and political recommitment. Human development is a long-term investment carrying high long-term individual and social returns. The aim of this initiative is, therefore, to advocate for and advise on the provision of a social protection floor and public resource spending in ways that will both kick-start growth and support more inclusive and sustainable social and economic development. The Social Protection Floor Initiative sees the current crisis as an opportunity to encourage and support countries to review policies and strategies for social transfers and access to needed services, aligning them along the principles of inclusion, equity and social justice as a major way of investing out of the crisis and achieving long-term stability.

7. Humanitarian, security and social stability

27. Though not obvious at first sight, with the crisis now hitting the real economy and virtually all spheres of society, the world as a whole could rapidly become a much more dangerous place to live in. This in turn could exacerbate the overall impact of the crisis and hamper recovery plans, feeding back to even more humanitarian, security and social instability leading the world into a worrying vicious cycle. Concerted action of an international scope is, therefore, required to address looming, underlying, and potentially dangerous forces that, if not tackled urgently, could have serious future costs and consequences. The Humanitarian Security and Social Stability Initiative aims at drawing the attention of decision makers to the impact of the ongoing crisis on the world's humanitarian security and social stability through a holistic approach that requires concerted action.

8. Technology and innovation

28. History shows that a period of economic recovery can greatly benefit from the presence of entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ideas. In the present crisis, technology, innovation and creativity will, therefore, be critical in providing opportunities for recovery, leading to a more dynamic, eco-friendly, sustainable and diversified global economy. Information and communication networks are the new engine of the modern global economy, and need to be consistently strengthened and expanded. Technological innovation, investment incentives and strong legal frameworks are essential to sustainable post-crisis growth. In order to promote such development, the Technology and Innovation Initiative in the short-term aims to: (a) monitor the impact of the crisis on developments in science and technology; (b) support the needs of industry to help it to navigate the crisis, for example, through investment promotion offices, training in information and communication technologies and networks, and assistance with management of intellectual property rights; (c) develop technical and vocational education, learning and training in the area of science, technology and innovation, notably in poor and developing regions; (d) develop patent landscaping, which will provide access to patent information and related technological information disclosed in scientific journals, as well as products and technology analysis reports; and (e) foster intellectual property rights training initiatives for the promotion of innovation through a more active and efficient use of patent and technology information.

9. Monitoring and analysis

29. The capacity of countries to respond to the multifaceted challenges of the crisis is uneven and also depends on adequate and relevant information on a range of economic, social, environmental and political developments and trends. The challenge facing the United Nations system is to mobilize and make available relevant information for decision-making in a form that is usable, reliable, accurate, regular and timely, in particular to inform decision makers on emerging and developing vulnerability of countries and peoples around the world. The monitoring and analysis aspect of the CEB joint crisis initiatives is based on three pillars: (a) the Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS); (b) the Integrated Monitoring and Analytical System for Crisis Response; and (c) monitoring economic and financial policies — IMF surveillance.

30. GIVAS aims to fill the information gap that currently exists between the point when a global crisis impacts vulnerable populations and when solid quantitative information reaches decision makers through official statistical channels. The added-value of the System will be the compilation of real-time data and analysis from a variety of reliable sources covering multiple dimensions of vulnerability that will help the international community to respond in a more effective and timely fashion. The Integrated Monitoring and Analytical System for Crisis Response in turn tries to address three challenges: (a) to bring existing information together into an effective monitoring framework that allows for real-time assessments; (b) to analyse risks related to different types of shocks, their transmissions, and likely effects on developing countries and various population groups; and (c) to inform policymakers so that they can design adequate responses and to monitor the effectiveness of the policy actions taken. The initial focus will be on monitoring the impact of the present crisis on vulnerable countries and populations, but its overall design will be one that will serve monitoring purposes beyond this crisis and should allow for the monitoring of different types of shocks and how these affect economies, social groups and the natural environment in different ways. The integrated monitoring framework will serve as a part of the broader GIVAS. Finally, a key aspect of the monitoring economic and financial policies — IMF surveillance, is the monitoring of economic and financial policies and of key systemic risks. In addition to the efforts to resolve the present global economic and financial crisis, steps to prevent its recurrence are gaining importance. IMF surveillance is, therefore, a key tool of international economic and financial monitoring and a potent platform of global economic policy coordination.

IV. Operationalization of the United Nations coordinated response

31. To enhance the coordinated response by the United Nations system to the world crisis, in line with the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, it is important to elaborate on the interlinkages among the nine joint crisis initiatives and on their implementation. Understanding the complexities of the interconnectedness between these areas will require more analytical work from the United Nations system. The *World Economic and Social Survey 2010*, which will focus on policy coherence and international development cooperation, will be a valuable exercise in that context. While strengthening in-house development research capacity will be necessary to enhance the United Nations capacity in this field, the proposed ad hoc panel of

experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development can also contribute to this objective (see E/2009/113).

32. The operationalization of the joint crisis initiatives includes advocacy at the global level, regional coordination as well as operational activities in response to the specific needs at the country level, and will involve relevant United Nations system organizations and mechanisms with the leadership of the convening agencies in each area. It also requires progress in the agenda of United Nations reform at the operational and intergovernmental level. Increased policy coherence will also require closer collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions. In that respect, attention is drawn to the report submitted simultaneously to the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of decision 2009/258.

33. A meeting of the lead agencies of the nine CEB joint crisis initiatives was convened on 7 July 2009 in Geneva to define a common framework for operationalizing the respective initiatives. The meeting took stock of the progress in each of the initiatives, most of which are new, while others — such as food security and the Green Economy Initiative — build on ongoing structures which gained new importance and focus as a response to the crisis. It was agreed that the leaders of the initiatives, focusing on the crisis dimensions, would move forward with their work in collaboration with the cooperating organizations. The discussion underscored an emphasis on the country level — country ownership of policies, the issue of capacity-building, and the need for more information on vulnerabilities within countries. Some initiatives, such as the Global Jobs Pact, were ready to be made available to Governments. Within the CEB structure, interaction between the High-level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) was important to that end.

34. On 14 and 15 July of 2009, the UNDG Advisory Group met in Geneva at the Assistant Secretary-General and Principals level, respectively, to discuss how UNDG can operationalize the global thinking on the economic and financial crises. There was full consensus in the Advisory Group on the need for the United Nations system to act with urgency and not to lose momentum. It was agreed that UNDG would facilitate the operationalization of the nine joint crisis initiatives by consolidating the support that each agency can offer United Nations country teams under each initiative and setting up a system through which agencies can access this support.

35. The Advisory Group agreed that least developed countries and low-income countries will be the first priority for countries to receive Headquarters and regional technical support on the crisis initiative areas, recognizing that other countries with large numbers of vulnerable people may also need early attention.

36. An initial letter from the UNDG Chair was sent out on 1 September to alert United Nations country teams that the initiative was under way. The letter called for United Nations country teams to strategically respond to the crises by applying the nine CEB joint crisis initiatives building on a long-term approach. United Nations country teams were encouraged to undertake the joint crisis initiatives on the basis of a clear indication of interest and the full participation of the Government. In responding to the emerging needs, United Nations country teams were asked to apply programme guidance, including the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in a flexible manner to reposition the United Nations interventions on the ground.

37. Based on each country's needs, government leadership and priorities, and building on the work already done, United Nations country teams, in partnership with the World Bank and IMF, as well as other interested partners, were urged to: (a) assess collectively critical needs arising from the current crises, making full use of all partners' existing, ongoing and planned analyses, to identify critical gaps; (b) formulate a set of interventions to address those gaps, identify potential synergies across interventions and programmes and confirm key organizations to lead support to Government in those areas; and (c) identify overall budgetary needs and existing and/or potential sources of funding, including any items to be funded by existing programmes or by scaling up existing programmes.

38. In the letter the UNDG Chair assured United Nations country teams of the UNDG commitment to provide coordinated support on a prioritized basis.

39. In parallel to the above, UNDG had continued to support efforts to enhance coherence at the country level as per the triennial comprehensive policy review 2007 mandate. A more efficient, effective and coherent United Nations development system can better respond to the changing dynamics at the country level. The recent efforts of UNDG have been aimed at facilitating United Nations country teams to operationalize the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in a coherent, coordinated and flexible manner, with greater transparency for all partners. UNDG has also stepped up efforts to strengthen the culture of managing for results through developing tools for common results reporting to national authorities. It has placed more emphasis on scaling up support, on a demand basis to countries, and drawing on its vast knowledge base and technical resources more effectively. UNDG has continued to make concrete advances in strengthening the Resident Coordinator system as the main vehicle for enhanced system-wide coherence at the country level. This being said, further work will be needed to overcome remaining difficulties. The urgent implementation of the comprehensive country-level crisis response presented in paragraph 21 above will be a test of the system's capacity to respond to the challenge of the crisis in the most vulnerable countries and populations.

40. In addition, the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development stressed the danger of resuming a cycle of unsustainable indebtedness. This echoed the Doha Review Conference, which requested continued progress on improving the effectiveness of the debt sustainability framework. In that respect, the United Nations system agencies are well placed to undertake a coordinated response to avoiding the re-emergence of unsustainable indebtedness and in assisting countries to craft trade and capital account measures when facing an acute and severe shortage of foreign reserves. At the global level, progress on improving the effectiveness of the debt sustainability framework will be critical. Coordination among United Nations system agencies in working with countries to strengthen their tools for countercyclical policies will also be important.

V. Conclusion

41. The United Nations system has made considerable efforts to establish mechanisms that allow for a coordinated response to the world economic and financial crisis. This has enabled the system to respond immediately to the

provisions of the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which is a powerful and inspiring call for action. Through CEB and other mechanisms, as applicable, the system will continue to enhance its coordinated response, focusing on implementation at the global and regional levels and, most importantly, the country level, in cooperation with the national authorities concerned. Efforts will be made to establish interlinkages among the various initiatives and promote partnerships that will maximize the positive impact on the ground.

42. On all these issues, important challenges still need to be overcome, at the intergovernmental and the operational levels. Support by Member States to these efforts is therefore crucial to ensure that a difference is made on the ground.

Annex

Communiqué of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination of 5 April 2009

We, the United Nations System Chief Executives, are meeting at a time of the worst global financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. What began as a collapse of the United States sub-prime mortgage market has quickly spread through global financial markets impacting the real economy, undermining consumer and business confidence and triggering further contraction in demand. World trade is falling and commodity prices have declined sharply. The world faces multiple financial, economic and social crises compounded by vulnerability from earlier food and energy crises. Livelihoods of rural and urban poor families are deteriorating rapidly. Jobs are being lost everywhere at an alarming pace. The crisis will affect all countries with a serious and disproportionate impact on the poorest. Accelerating trends of climate change present unprecedented new risks and demand a fundamental reorientation of production and consumption patterns. It is imperative that we turn this crisis into an opportunity for a sustainable future.

We welcome the historic decisions of the recent G-20 Summit and the commitment of $1.1 trillion of additional resources to address the crisis. We underscore the central importance of a truly global stimulus, strengthened financial regulation and oversight to prevent a recurrence of the crisis and the need for coordinated policies to ensure that all available resources for stimulus have the maximum global impact. We welcome the strong emphasis of the G-20 on assisting developing countries on keeping open trade, and on the additional financing for trade. However, specific commitments to additional resources are also required to assist the poorest, while avoiding the risk of resuming a cycle of unsustainable indebtedness.

The social effects of the crisis are already disturbing and could worsen. If action is not taken urgently, it can be devastating for the most vulnerable and voiceless, with growing social insecurity and displacement of people. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is at stake. Progress in reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries is being set back. The 850 million people already suffering from chronic hunger in 2006 will increase to around 1 billion in 2009. The middle class in many countries is being weakened. The vulnerable groups — children, women, youth, elderly, migrants and people with disabilities — are hit the strongest.

Even before the onset of the current financial crisis, significant challenges existed in terms of food, education, health, water and sanitation, housing and minimum welfare for the most needy. Poverty and deprivation define the lives of too many.

In the face of this unfolding crisis, the multilateral system must deploy all its resources and capacities in a rapid and effective response, while upholding the principles, values and goals to which the international community has committed. Open economies and societies must be defended to avoid the risk of reverting to inward-looking policies, protectionism and even xenophobia. Human rights, democracy, social justice and peace must be preserved.

CEB underlines the risk of a reduction in development assistance at this time and the need to ensure that all efforts are made to prevent a global economic crisis from becoming a humanitarian and security crisis of potentially immense proportions. CEB reiterates that the commitments made earlier to increase official development assistance must be met. This means that donors will deliver at least $300 billion in aid over the next two years.

International policy coordination is crucial. The crisis is multidimensional and calls for policy coherence at global, regional and national levels. It is impacting countries differently and requires policy responses specific to national priorities. We call upon stakeholders to build on the current momentum of intensified multilateral cooperation in order to promote a fully inclusive framework of global governance.

The capacity of Governments to design, afford and implement the right policies, while coordinating them with international partners, must be strengthened. The multilateral system plays a central role in articulating and delivering a global and coherent response to the crisis, and in translating it into action at the country level. At the country level, United Nations and IMF/World Bank representatives should work together in a joint and complementary approach to the crisis.

We, the United Nations System Chief Executives, are determined to take decisive and urgent action. In view of the multiple facets of the crisis and our collective mandates and responsibilities, we have agreed on nine joint initiatives. This common commitment is designed to assist countries and the global community to confront the crisis, accelerate recovery and build a fair and inclusive globalization allowing for sustainable economic, social and environmental development for all, while facing the future in a spirit of conviction of the need for transformational change:

1. **Additional financing for the most vulnerable**: advocating and devising a joint World Bank-United Nations system mechanism for the common articulation and implementation of additional financing, including through the World Bank-proposed Vulnerability Fund;

2. **Food security**: strengthening programmes to feed the hungry and expanding support to farmers in developing countries;

3. **Trade**: fighting protectionism, including through the conclusion of the Doha round and strengthening aid-for-trade initiatives and finance for trade;

4. **A Green Economy Initiative**: promoting investment in long-term environmental sustainability and putting the world on a climate-friendly path;

5. **A Global Jobs Pact**: boosting employment, production, investment and aggregate demand, and promoting decent work for all;

6. **A social protection floor**: ensuring access to basic social services, shelter, and empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable;

7. **Humanitarian, security and social stability**: emergency action to protect lives and livelihoods, meeting hunger and humanitarian needs, protecting displaced people and shoring up security and social stability;

8. **Technology and innovation**: developing technological infrastructure to facilitate the promotion and access to innovation;

9. **Monitoring and analysis**:

- Strengthening macroeconomic and financial surveillance and implementing an effective economic early warning system
- Urgently establish a United Nations system-wide vulnerability monitoring and alert mechanism to track developments, and report on the political, economic, social and environmental dimensions of the crisis.

Policy coherence and coordination are essential. Promoting coordination of strengthened financial oversight and of economic stimulus packages will enhance their overall effectiveness; and providing relevant policy advice on countercyclical policies will contribute to protecting people, accelerating the way out of this crisis and preventing its recurrence.